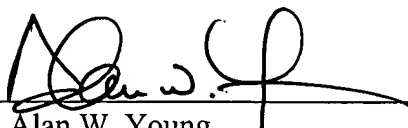


REMARKS

The present preliminary amendment cancels claims 1-27 and 37-39 presents claims 28-36 and 40-47 for examination.

It is believed that the present application is in condition for a prompt and favorable examination on the merits. Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, he need only call the undersigned, and whatever is needed will be done at once.

Respectfully submitted,

By:  JANUARY 16, 2004
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